

2004

[February] The name of the Missouri Statewide Interpreters Conference is changed to the Missouri Interpreters Conference. [July] MCDHH hosts an exhibit and presents two workshops at the Biennial Conference of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD). Governor Bob Holden signs SB 1211 making deaf people eligible to serve on petit and grand juries in Missouri with appropriate auxiliary aids and services. Governor Bob Holden signs SB 968 and SB 969 exempting from licensing requirements students in Interpreter Training Programs (ITPs) when interpreting as part of a supervised course of study and certified out-of-state interpreters when temporarily present in Missouri for the purpose of providing interpreting services for a convention or conference. Governor Bob Holden signs SB 1122 authorizing the SCI to deny renewal of an interpreter's license if they do not have a current certification. [September] Town Hall meetings are held in three cities to discuss Department of Mental Health Services for deaf and hard of hearing people.

2005

[June] Governor Matt Blunt signs HB 530 mandating that American Sign Language (ASL) be counted toward satisfaction of any foreign language or language arts requirements in any public school or public institution of higher education in Missouri, and that ASL be accepted for meeting any foreign language entrance requirements in any public institution of higher education in Missouri. [July] MCDHH issues a Consumer Report on "Communications Accessibility in Missouri Hospitals." [September] MCDHH issues a Consumer Report on "Communications Accessibility in Missouri Jails."

2006

(February) Two MCDHH Staff members attend training to become certified instructors in order to offer the "Emergency Responders and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community: Taking the First Steps to Disaster Preparedness" course developed by the Community Emergency Preparedness Information Network (CEPIN). (March) MCDHH issues a "Consumer Report on "Sign Language Instruction in Missouri" (April) MCDHH exhibits for the first time at Deaf Nation Expo. (July) A videophone for public use is set up at the MCDHH Office.

2007

(January) MCDHH publishes its new website. (May) MCDHH coordinates and presents at a day-long preconference workshop and presents at a day-long preconference workshop titled "Emergencies: Are we and Our Communities Prepared?" which is hosted by the National American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association (ADARA). (June) Governor Matt Blunt signs HB 181 making it mandatory that any electronic video instructional materials (including CDs, DVDs, videotapes, and film) sold to any school in Missouri must have either open or closed captions. (July) MCDHH exhibits of the National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA) in St. Louis.

2008

(Spring) MCDHH coordinates and assists the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) in providing Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training for the deaf and hard of hearing Missourians. (June) The MCDHH office moves to 1500 Southridge Drive in Jefferson City. (August) MCDHH hires Dr. Barry Critchfield as its fourth Executive Director.

2009

(June) Rural Educational Interpreters Skill Enhancement Training (REISET) began at William Woods University for a three week intensive training skill development training for Missouri rural interpreters.

2010

(December) Dr. Roy Miller was hired as an Interim Executive Director of MCDHH.

2011

(June) Ernest E. Garrett, III was hired as the fifth Executive Director of MCDHH.

2012

(March) Resolution HCR 42 passed which endorsed D/HH Children's educational & linguistic rights. (July) A new position was added to MCDHH, Staff Interpreter. The Workshop/Training Specialist title was changed to Community Support Liaison.

2013

(March) MCDHH website was changed again for better viewing to the public. (October) MCDHH celebrates the 25th anniversary of MCDHH during the 20th annual Missouri Interpreters Conference at Tan Tar A Resort.

2014

(June) Opeoluwa Sotonwa was hired as the sixth Executive Director of MCDHH. (September) New rules and rule changes took effect that MCDHH will administer a new interpreter certification test (BEI), increased the number of CEUs an interpreter must earn annually and increased the educational requirement to become an interpreter. (November) MCDHH begins the distribution of Visor Communication Cards to the deaf and hard of hearing community to enhance communication with law enforcement officers during a traffic stop.



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Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



**Governor John Ashcroft
Signs HB 1385 Creating the
Missouri Commission for the Deaf**

Selective History of MCDHH

*Promoting
Equal
Access
For
People
With
Hearing
Loss!*

Selective History of MCDHH

1988

[June] Governor John Ashcroft signs House Bill 1385 establishing the Missouri Commission for the Deaf (MCD) within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

1989

[March-July] Governor John Ashcroft appoints the first nine members of MCD. [September] The first meeting of MCD is held at the Missouri School for the Deaf in Fulton. [November] A Commission Task Force is established to study alternative interpreter certification systems.

1990

[July] MCD hires Claude Stout as its first Executive Director. MCD opens its first office at the Missouri School for the Deaf in Fulton. Governor John Ashcroft signs House Bills 1132 and 1315 authorizing the Public Service Commission to initiate plans for a statewide Telecommunications Relay Service in Missouri. [September] The Interpreting Service Study Team is established to study problems and availability of interpreting services in Missouri. [Fall] MCD newsletter (Gateway to Progress) is first published. [November] The Commission Task Force charged with studying alternative certification systems recommends the adoption of the Mid-America Quality Assurance Screening Test.

1991

[January-February] MCD hosts Town Hall meetings in five cities to discuss certification of interpreters. [March] The Interpreting Service Study Team disbands, and recommends the establishment of the Certification System Subcommittee to begin designing the certification system for Missouri. [October] The Task Force on Support Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People in Judicial and Administrative Proceedings is established to find solutions to communication accessibility problems in court rooms and other legal settings.

1992

[April] MCD hires Gerald Covell as its second Executive Director. The Task Force on Support Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People in Judicial and Administrative Proceedings is renamed the Legal Accessibility Task Force and begins a broad review of needed changes in Missouri laws concerning the legal system. [May] The MCD Writing Committee is established to develop a written proposal concerning certification for MCD's review and approval.

1993

[June] Governor Mel Carnahan signs HB 600 establishing the Confidentiality of Conversations Act, which stipulates that interpreters and relay agents cannot be forced to disclose the contents of conversations that they facilitated between deaf and hearing people, except to provide evidence in proceedings related to criminal charges. [July] Lieutenant Governor Roger Wilson signs SB 88 requiring communications accessibility for deaf and hard of hearing people in all parts of the legal system. [November] The Deaf Education Task Force is established to review deaf education practices in Missouri.

1994

[June] Governor Mel Carnahan signs HB 1044 eliminating the need for a separate certification system for educational interpreters. Governor Mel Carnahan signs SB 568 creating the Board for Certification of Interpreters (BCI) and the State Committee of Interpreters (SCI). [August] Missouri becomes the first state in the country to require all interpreters in the state to be both certified and licensed. [September] MCD hosts its first annual Deaf Awareness Day at Six Flags St. Louis. [October] The MCD office moves to 915 Leslie Boulevard in Jefferson City. [November] MCD co-hosts the first annual Missouri Statewide Interpreters Convention with William Woods University.

1995

[June] Governor Mel Carnahan appoints the original five members of the BCI. [August] The BCI holds its first meeting at the MCD office. MCD has first exhibit at the Missouri State Fair.

1996

[August] MCD sponsors its first Deaf Awareness Day at the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia. The MCD office relocates to 1103 Rear Southwest Boulevard in Jefferson City. [Winter] The name of MCD's newsletter is changed to the "Commissioners Grapevine."

1997

[January] The initial administrative rules governing the Missouri Interpreters Certification System (MICS) become effective. [November] MCD hosts its first annual Deaf Empowerment program in conjunction with the annual Missouri Statewide Interpreters Convention. The MCD office is connected to the Internet providing e-mail access. [December] An MCD website is created. The BCI begins certifying interpreters.

1998

[April] First MICS brochure is published. [October] First MICS "Interpreter's Manual" is published.

1999

[September] MCD hires Dr. Roy Miller as its third Executive Director. MCD hosts its first Deaf Awareness Day at Worlds of Fun.

2000

[Summer] MCD changes from doing live evaluations of interpreters to the exclusive use of videotapes. "New Millennium" Town Hall meetings are held in three different cities in order to receive input regarding the development of an MCD strategic plan. [October] First MCD awards are given to the "Deaf Evaluator of the Year," "Hearing Evaluator of the Year," "MCD Employee of the Year," and an "MCD Angel."

2001

[February] The name of the Missouri Statewide Interpreters Convention is changed to the Missouri Statewide Interpreters Conference. [July] Governor Bob Holden signs SB 275 allowing deaf and hard of hearing people to request a "J88" be put on their driver's license to show that they have a hearing loss and use alternative communication. [September] MCD hosts its first Deaf Awareness Weekend at Silver Dollar City in Branson. [October] First MCD "Lifetime Achievement Awards" are given.

2002

[March] Any workshop that gives interpreters RID Continuing Education Units (CEU's) is automatically approved for MICS CEU's. [July] Governor Bob Holden signs HB 1783, thus changing the name of MCD to the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH), allowing MCDHH to begin paying its MICS evaluators, and recognizing specific RID and NAD certifications for licensing in Missouri. Governor Bob Holden signs HB 1715 requiring that interpreters be provided to individuals who are deaf in juvenile detention and correction proceedings and facilities in Missouri. [October] The name of the "Commissioner's Grapevine" is changed to the "MCDHH News." The name of the Deaf Empowerment program is changed to the Empowerment Symposium. MCDHH begins paying its MICS evaluators.

2003

[March] MCDHH becomes a remote test site for the Educational Interpreters Performance Assessment (EIPA). [June] MCDHH celebrates its 10th annual Deaf Awareness Day at Six Flags St. Louis. [July] The Skill Level Standards rule (5 CSR 100-200.170) becomes effective providing standards for appropriate certification levels for interpreters practicing in various settings. [August] MCDHH becomes an approved RID CEU sponsoring site. MCDHH receives "Outstanding Deaf Community Service Award" from the Missouri Association of the Deaf. [October] MCDHH celebrates its 10th annual Missouri Statewide Interpreters Conference.